

Residency Externship Program in Public Policy

Learn. Serve. Lead.

February 2016 newsletter



REP-PP Students Avery Ory & Mitch Monthie make their C-SPAN debut at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing



SIX STUDENTS HEAD TO D.C.

Meet National Leaders in Policymaking, Conquer a Blizzard, Explore the City

Six intrepid Texas A&M School of Law students headed to Washington, D.C. in January as part of the Law School's inaugural class of Residency Externship Program in Public Policy (REP-PP) participants. These students hit the ground running in their externship placements –

Zachery Brown – American Civil Liberties Union, Washington Legislative Office

Thomas Connally – Representative Joe Barton's Office

Mitchell Monthie – Open Society Foundations, Open Society Policy Center

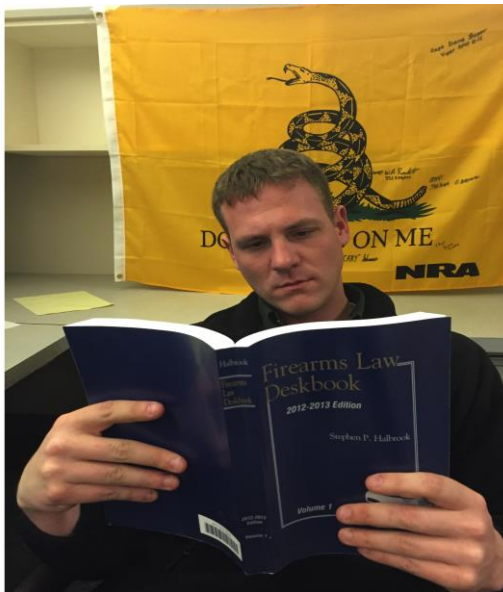
Avery Ory – Senator John Cornyn's Judiciary Committee Staff

Akia Pichon – Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel

Joseph Vrechek – National Rifle Association, Institute of Legislative Action, Grassroots Division

In addition to experiencing policymaking firsthand, REP-PP students are taking a three-credit seminar class led by **Stephen Viña**, chief counsel for the minority of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. Viña and the students engage in in-depth discussions of the ethics, processes, demands, and expectations lawyers in the public sector face every day.

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REP-PP Student Joey Vrechek conducts legal research for the NRA



"The REP-PP is a once in a lifetime opportunity to immerse myself in the legal, political and cultural epicenter that is Washington, D.C." Tom Connally – 3L

"D.C. – this is the big leagues of public policy. Successfully completing this program and performing my best here means I can be **successful** anywhere, doing anything!"

Zach Brown – 3L

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18, 2016 –

Speaker Series: Kenneth Cohen, Staff Director & Alan Dorhoffer, Deputy Director for Training, U.S. Sentencing Commission

February 22, 2016 –

Picture Day:
Students have their photo shoot in D.C.
Speaker Series: Jesselyn McCurdy, ACLU & Nkechi Taiya, Open Society Foundations

March 21 2016 –

Speaker Series: Caroline Lynch, Majority Chief Counsel, Crime Subcommittee, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary

March 31, 2016 –

Speaker Series: Colonel David Graham, Department of the Army, JAG School

April 1, 2016 –

Tour of the Pentagon

April 12-13, 2016 –

Aggies on the Hill Events:
April 12 – Evening Reception
April 13 – Breakfast
April 13 – Evening Reception

Students in D.C.

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REP-PP students have significantly expanded their professional Aggie network. In addition to meeting and talking with key personnel in the Texas A&M System Federal Relations office (at which students meet for their seminar), including its director, **Scott Sudduth** and program manager, **Valerie Offutt**, REP-PP students participate in a robust and far-reaching Speakers Series. REP-PP students already have been afforded the opportunity to discuss careers, advice, and substantive policy issues with the following key policymakers outside of their placements –

Michael Stroud, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Washington Sanitation Commission (& former Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security)

Albert Sanders, Counsel to the President

Robbie Freedman, Attorney Adviser, Department of State

Todd Gee, Trial Attorney, Public Integrity Section, Department of Justice

The REP-PP Speakers Series also has been opened up to our fellow Aggies in D.C. participating in Texas A&M's Public Policy Internship Program.

Students in the REP-PP also made history as they experienced

"snowpocalypse" shortly after their D.C. arrival. Measuring over 24" of snow when all was said and done, the January 2016 snowstorm ranked as one of D.C.'s biggest. Students learned that D.C. is not particularly adept at handling snow but they took it in stride – digging out, running, and even



sledding on Capitol Hill (a feat that required an act of Congress!).



They've also eaten at some of D.C.'s best restaurants and visited some of its most iconic sites.



For more information related to the REP-PP, visit the Texas A&M School of Law's website.